

# Valley The Star

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VALLEY LIFE: SURVIVOR SPIRITS



NEWS: FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL



VALLEY LIFE: BARBIE HEROES

## Facebook privacy

Users question their privacy under Facebook.

JESSICA AVA LANGE  
STAFF WRITER

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's fallout with Cambridge Analytica after a data scandal leads to a world-wide #deletefacebook movement.

"You should never feel safe posting on social media," said Joyce Koophan, biotechnology junior at Valley College. "I'm pretty careful about what I put on there. Someone used my photos to create a fake account."

Cambridge Analytica, a data firm retained by the Trump campaign, attempted to persuade American voters during the 2016 presidential election by exploiting 50 millions of Facebook user's personal data without their consent. Zuckerberg has admitted Facebook's problems touch on questions of history, civics, political philosophy, media, government and technology.

Congress recently asked Zuckerberg to testify before legislators for the involvement in the Cambridge Analytica data scandal. Some in Congress raise alarms at Facebook's inability to police themselves and the vulnerability of users' personal information.

Although Facebook has since suspended Cambridge Analytica, Facebook stocks continue to drop tens of billions of dollars and are facing multiple shareholder and user lawsuits.

In fact, Time Magazine reported that Facebook lost \$10 billion over the past week as the Cambridge Analytica crisis played out.

"I'm really sorry that this happened," Zuckerberg told CNN. "This was a major breach of trust."

In 2016, Zuckerberg dismissed the idea of fake news on Facebook as "crazy," yet the company waged a global fight against fake news in 2017 by enforcing a crackdown on thousands of fake accounts.

Alexander Nix, a founder and CEO of Cambridge, on Britain's Channel 4 News, said "we were able to use data to identify that there were very large quantities of persuadable voters there that could be influenced to vote for the Trump campaign."

However, Aleksandr Kogan, the Cambridge University researcher who collected information on Americans through Facebook for Cambridge stated that they complied with Facebook's guidelines.

"Their terms of service for developers state that 'Hey, we will monitor your app, if we see any violations we're going to notify you and audit you and all that stuff,'" said Kogan. "And that never happened."

"It is time #deletefacebook," wrote Brian Action, co-founder of Whatsapp who sold Whatsapp to Facebook in 2014.

Zuckerberg announces that Facebook will be making changes to restrict the amount

see Facebook p.2

## Homeless student arrested

A student was arrested for vagrancy for sleeping on campus grounds after hours.

SAVANNAH SIMMONS  
AND SOLOMON SMITH  
STAFF WRITERS

A Valley student was arrested for vagrancy last week after being found sleeping on campus.

Vagrancy is defined as "the state of living as a vagrant; homelessness" and is what got an unidentified student arrested at 12:30 a.m. on March 21. The student was found sleeping in the LARC building according to the crime blotter, a daily log and public record of incidents and arrests on campus located in the sheriff's office.

"The school has gone through great lengths to secure the bungalows," said Deputy Melvin Young, "a lot of the bungalows that are not being used have been secured a lot better than they were in the

"We get a lot of transients going through to use the orange line,"

- Melvin Young

past."

Valley is an "open campus" meaning that many of its spaces and facilities are available to the public for use during its operating hours. This can be problematic for security as it may encourage other tran-



ARRESTED- Police arresting a student for vagrancy after catching them sleeping on campus.

sients who are not students to seek refuge on campus.

"We get a lot of transients going through to use the orange line, and a lot of the homeless in the motor homes out front can come on campus to use the facilities," said Young.

In the last few decades a rise in homeless students on college campus' has been addressed in a variety of ways including making some facil-

ities available to them on college campuses. In September of 2016, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law AB-1995 allowing registered students to use the shower facilities on campus. The law, however, does limit time and days of use.

The sheriff's office provides information about local facilities designed to help homeless students including information about the San Fernando Valley

Rescue Mission. The packet also includes places that offer hot showers and meals, emergency housing, employment help and even health resources.

Currently the LACCD Detectives department is handling the case but has not responded to questions about why the student was arrested as opposed to being placed in a shelter or other facility.

ILLUSTRATION | PIXABAY

## NEED TO KNOW

### Earthquake

A 5.3 earthquake rattled many Monarchs out of bed last week in one of the largest quakes in recent memory.

## ON CAMPUS

The LAVC Career/Transfer Center is hosting a UCLA Center for Community College Partnerships representative at the Career/Transfer Center in the Student Services Annex on April 19 from 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.

### Blood Drive

Upcoming blood drive on May 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

These features and more can be found in full @ [www.thevalleystar.com](http://www.thevalleystar.com)



VALLEY STAR | SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI

VOTING- Last year students voted on campus and online for the candidates for the Associated Student Union.

## Valley's ASU Elections heat up

Valley College's Student Elections are revving up as candidates are selected.

SARAH BENNET  
AND SAVANNAH SIMMONS  
STAFF WRITERS

In contrast to last year's election where many candidates ran unopposed, this year's election promises a debate among the many contested positions.

Before spring break, 13 Valley College students signed up to run for ASU, two of which will be campaigning for president. This election cycle there are two presidential candidates, both with a vision to create equality on campus and pursue plans to incorporate students voices into campus decisions.

"If anyone were to lead our campus it should be someone who has invested time in our student body," said Joseph Katona who is running for ASU president.

As former interim president and treasurer, current presidential candidate, Katona has some experience under his belt: he represented Valley College in Sacramento and met with other ASO presidents of LACCD, as stated in his candidate bio. A key goal he mentions is combating student homelessness.

Oscar Juvera is the opposing candidate for this year's presidential election with a platform to represent minorities in school committees. His intent to advocate for special causes drove him to run for president as he looks to fight for LGBTQ+ equality and bathrooms for all sexes.

"Many minorities and non-represented students do not have a voice," Juvera said. "I will try to be that representative for all scholars on

campus."

As ASU president, officers are required to attend lobbying committee meetings, meet with the president of the college and oversee most ASU committees.

Additional positions on the ASU committee are treasurer, commissioners of campus and environmental concerns, fine arts, political and external affairs, institutional effectiveness, publicity, social media, student life and health and safety concerns.

This year, voting for all positions is made simple. Elections will be held online to encourage student involvement by making it easier to vote. Students will be able to vote on the new SIS system from any computer April 23 to

see Election p.2

## Student sexually assaulted on campus lot

SOLOMON SMITH  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A female student was sexually assaulted by an unnamed assailant on campus while sitting in her car.

According to Deputy Young, the female student was on campus near Lot G, at the front of campus near Burbank Avenue and Coldwater Canyon, sitting in her car when it happened. A young black male, whom the victim did not recognize, approached her and exposed himself. The attacker had his phone out during the incident and appeared to be taking pictures as he masturbated in front of the victim. "So far this was a singular incident," said Young. "I have been here almost a year and we have not seen anything like that."

The assault lasted only a few moments and the victim was able to report it to the Valley Sheriff's Department which was recorded in the daily crime blotter at their office on campus. According to records, the attack happened at 6 p.m. on March 18. The victim was

able to go to the security office on campus to report the crime but the Valley Sheriff's office has not been able to release any more details about the incident because it is currently under investigation by the LACCD Detectives Department.

"Some info we like to keep for investigative purposes," said Young.

Sexual assault, as defined by the LACCD in accordance with their Title IX guidelines on their website, "Sexual assault occurs when one person is forced or coerced into participating in a sexual act to which he or she has not consented."

In response to the attack, campus security is putting together a plan to request more security cameras in the parking lot and intends to post information warning students about the assailant, pending approval from investigating officers, according to Young.

The LACCD Detectives Department handles the investigative process for crimes reported on LACCD campuses but has yet to respond to calls regarding the status of this crime.



ILLUSTRATION | PIXABAY

PARKING- Dark isolated parking can create dangerous situations.



# NEWS

## LACCD sued over free speech

An LACCD student takes the district to court for unfairly limiting his First Amendment rights to free speech.

PAUL ORLEANS  
STAFF WRITER

Pierce College is being sued for restricting students' free speech and their ability to express opinions and share thoughts openly with their peers.

Kevin Shaw, a Pierce college student, is in the middle of a lawsuit against the Los Angeles Community College District for infringing upon his First Amendment right of Free Speech.

It began Nov. 2, 2016, when Shaw was abruptly stopped by an administrator from passing out Spanish-language copies of the U.S. Constitution, in an effort to recruit members for the libertarian-conservative group "Young Americans for Liberty" outside of the school designated, 616-square-foot "Free Speech Zone." For some perspective on how tiny the Free Speech Zone is at Pierce, the average three-car garage ranges from 600-640 square feet.

The designated free speech areas on Valley's campus are located in front of the Campus Center. Valley's Vice President of Student Services, Florentino Manzano, explained that the free speech area also extended

it could lead to his being disciplined or removed from campus. He has accused Pierce of selectively enforcing its free-speech policies.

"This fight is about a student's right to engage in free thinking and debate while attending college in America," Shaw said.

The Department of Justice had voiced its opinion and support for Shaw back in October, when U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said, "University officials and faculty must defend free expression boldly and unequivocally."

The lawsuit has now moved to the pre-trial phase and it is unknown when this will be revisited in court.

"The court's ruling sends an important message to colleges nationwide that still restrict student speech zones," said Marieke Tuthill Beck-Coon, Director of Litigation for Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

As far as Valley having issues with its own free speech

### THE ISSUE

#### Free Speech

**This case is important because a federal ruling here could set the tone for how schools across the state limit free speech.**

onto the grass area about 20 feet away from the "zone markers" on the concrete sidewalk, a significantly bigger area than the markers suggests.

Shaw continued to pass out his information pamphlets outside of the established "free speech zone" but says he was afraid to pass out material if



VALLEY STAR | MIA GUZMAN

**SPEECH-** The free speech areas on campus are designated and regulated by a policy which is now up for review.

area, there is only one according to Manzano, "[T]he issue is people not checking in with the Student Services Office, letting them know that they will be using the free speech area."

"In some cases, people are unaware or don't know that they need to check in, and you find them around campus or in the buildings while class is going on. It's primarily people

who are collecting signatures for ballots," Said Manzano. "As a student you aren't limited to the free speech area, there is a process in which students, faculty and administrators are able to go through to utilize the facilities on campus."

"With the possibility of the Campus Center being relocated, in the next five to 10 years we really may need to reassess

where the free speech area is located," Manzano said, though he feels that the current free speech area is enough for students.

Manzano hopes that the current free speech policy will not change because of this current lawsuit against the LACCD saying, "[I]f the policy does change, it should be to the benefit to the students."

## Dreamers sanctuary on campus

As President Donald J. Trump casts doubts on the renewal of the DACA program, Valley College's Dreamers find a new office lending support.

SOLOMON SMITH  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students at Valley College living in fear of deportation now have an official ally on campus—the Dream Resource Center.

Housed in the Mosaic Center, the Dreamers Resource Center is the designated hub on campus for students who are Dreamers. According to a proposed resolution reviewed by the LACCD Assembly Committee on Higher Education, the Dream Resource Centers throughout the LACCD were established to address the low rates of Dreamers who attend college, about 20 percent of the approximately 60,000 undocumented high school graduates.

"The creation of Dream Resource Centers would save staff time and resources by streamlining all available financial aid and academic opportunities for students meeting the requirements of AB 540," stated the committee's report.

The LACCD shad-

owed major California colleges including University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Davis, and State University, Northridge to address needs of Dreamers population on campus.

The work of organizing these resources and providing support to the students the office serves falls on the shoulders of Sergio Belloso, counselor for the Dream Resource Center and adviser for the Dream Catchers Club.

The center has been at Valley since summer 2017. The office set up several workshops with immigration lawyers who helped students, pro bono. Answering basic questions to assisting students with filing for their DACA status, many of these workshops are a starting point for students who are navigating unsure waters ever since President Donald J. Trump announced an end to DACA in September 2017.

"We've had workshops and clinics where attorneys come in and give different workshops

and clinics in general," says Belloso, "...before this office opened I was doing some of this work through the EOP office on campus."

The center plans additional workshops and outreach programs through their offices and in association with the Dreamers Club on campus but is waiting to see what congress decides to do about the Dreamers' status. With Trump's recent announcements of the DACA deal being "dead" students are wary about making it known that they are undocumented, for fear of being reported to the authorities but Belloso wants to assuage their fears about using the resources of his office.

There are still some challenges that Belloso would like to see addressed in the new program. Although the district has sent letters and verbal support the office still needs a larger staff.

"There's no full-time staff for the center, there's no one that's available everyday for the center, so if a student comes

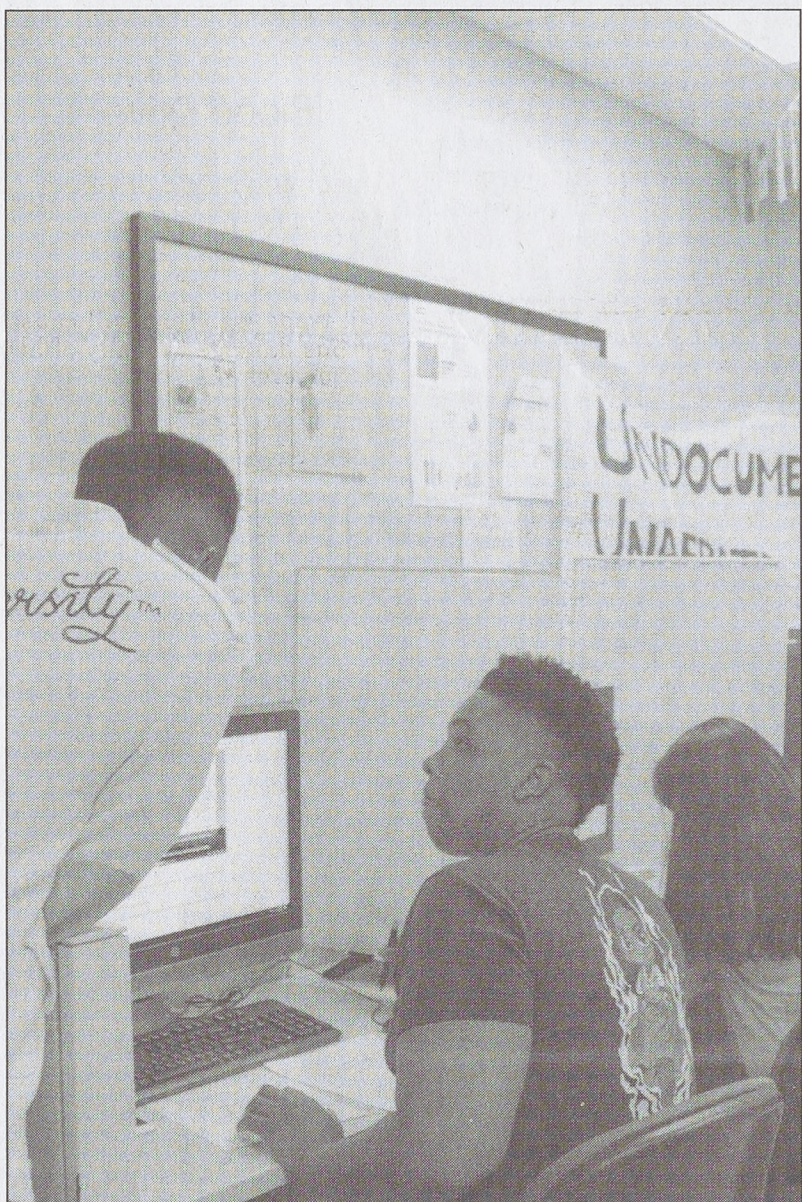
### THE ISSUE

#### Support for Dreamers

**The new Dream Resource Center supported by the Mosaic Center is here to support and guide students as they navigate their way through the difficult legal position of being an immigrant in the United States.**

and seeks help on a day that I'm not available there may not be any available," said Belloso.

The center is located on the second floor of the Student Services Building in the Mosaic Center. Although the Dream Resources Center does not have its own website, there are still resources available to students at this website under the EOPS office. Belloso can be reached by email at bellosa@lavc.edu.



VALLEY STAR | MIA GUZMAN

**DREAMERS-** Students seek help at the Dream Resource Center on campus.

### 'Election'

April 30. For anyone without a computer or just looking to vote while on campus, computers will be available for voting in the Office of Student Life located on the second floor of the Student Union.

To get a better understanding of the candidates and

their ideas, students will be able to attend the Candidate Debate which will be held on April 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the office of the Student Union.

### 'Facebook'

"I started Facebook, and at the end of the day I'm responsible for what happens on our platform," Zuckerberg said. "We will learn from this experience to secure our platform further and make our community safer for everyone going

forward. We have a responsibility to protect your data, and if we can't we don't deserve to serve you."

Even though there's no statistics on user's reaction to this latest issue, Facebook has lost 1.4 users in the 12 to 17-year old demographic since 2017.

## Mission holds annual Food and Wine Festival

San Fernando Valley Food and Wine Festival features food, wine and scholarships.



ILLUSTRATION | SAN FERNANDO FOOD AND WINE  
**FESTIVAL-** The upcoming festival will be in its sixteenth year running.

MONSERRAT SOLIS  
STAFF WRITER

The sixteenth annual Food and Wine Festival hits the San Fernando Valley later this month with California wine varieties and scholarships for students.

Los Angeles Mission College extends an invitation to the April 28 Food and Wine Festival where students, faculty, and volunteers serve the event with international food and handpicked wine selections by the school's foundation members.

Vice-Chair of Mission's Foundation, Daryl Smith said, "you won't leave hungry from this event."

The event will honor attendees with musical guest Dayren Santamaria, a violinist who mixes Cuban jazz with classical, folkloric and soul

stylings. Santamaria, along with a six-piece band, will bring a special touch to this year's event as every year the foundation wants to expand the event's audience.

The festival is filled with food, wine, and music, but there is also opportunity for students to receive scholarships from this event. Sponsorships come from all over the San Fernando Valley and contribute to scholarships for Mission's culinary students.

"Scholarships are your future and it can really make a difference," said Smith about the importance of this event for the students.

Tickets range from \$55-\$5,000, starting with general tickets to VIP and sponsorships. For more information or tickets, visit sfvfw.com.



# OPINION

3

## #MoreRoleModels for girls at what cost

New Frida Kahlo doll without her signature looks is released without the consent from family members.

MONSERRAT SOLIS  
STAFF WRITER

Although creating a platform of powerful women can give young girls a passage to positive role models, Mattel's Frida Kahlo Barbie doll has caused negative buzz within the Latinx community.

Mattel has released 17 historical women from diverse backgrounds and fields as a new initiative to introduce role models to young girls but the Frida Kahlo doll's physical appearance has raised some suspicion. Born with spina bifida and having developed polio at age six, her doll does not accurately embody her.

"Her art represented her and the doll doesn't," said full-time student and mom of two, Nancy Rivera.

For Latinx, this is a personal hit as they view Kahlo as a Mexican icon. By Mattel selling her doll for a profit, her image of an activist who stood up to capitalism is being damaged.

In addition, the Official Frida Kahlo Instagram account stated that Mattel does not have the authorization to use the image of Kahlo. Kahlo's great-niece Mara de Anda Romeo, who is the sole

owner of the Kahlo image, is not pleased with the representation of her relative.

When the doll was announced it was missing her unibrow, an important symbol of her image. When people think of Kahlo they think of her famous features and while the doll will sell, it's important to discuss the misrepresentation and what that can cause

**"When people think of Kahlo they think of her famous features"**

in girls who look up to Kahlo.

Being Latina, viewing Kahlo as a symbol to my community and culture, seeing her doll being poorly represented by Mattel makes me feel as though she's being cheated. For all the people she has influenced and kids that will look up to her. It is a shame her image has been altered, not only her physical disabilities but her appearance that both shaped her and her art.

Along with not having the



ILLUSTRATION | BARBIE.COM

HERO- Frida Kahlo, doll pictured, has been decried as an inaccurate representative of the famous artist.

proper consent to the Kahlo image and missing meaningful detail, many fans have taken online to voice their concern with the misrepresentation of

the doll by pointing out the differences with the doll and Kahlo. Mattel completely missed the mark to represent important women by overlook-

ing Kahlo's significant looks. If Mattel wants to create role models for girls, why create a doll that does not accurately represent the role model?

## TRUMP'S TRADE WAR DRIVES SUPPORTERS TO THE OTHER SIDE

Now that Trump's trade war is affecting "middle America" affected Trump supporters are contemplating joining the rebellion against Trump and his rhetoric, but it is too little and far too late.

SOLOMON SMITH  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



I have no sympathy for the Trump supporters who are affected by President Donald Trump's trade war and neither should you.

Trump is loud and obvious about who he is and what he represents. When Trump is being "Trump" by using his office to pick on the powerless or when he does any of the long list of things that his supporters both defend and distance themselves from, no one is surprised.

Some Americans were willing to accept these glaring character flaws. It is not unusual to see a Trump supporter defending the indefensible on television or in print, asserting that Trump's embarrassing immoral comments are inconsequential.

Within the last few months Trump has managed to depress prices in the stock market, attack one of the most profitable American businesses in the country, get the world closer and to enter the U.S. in a trade war that will cause serious damage to many of his supporters.

Many of Trump's supporters affected by his bad economic policies are now "coming around" to the fact that they made a mistake and the talk turns to the idea that this year's midterm elections will show a lack of support for the president. That is great but much too late to matter.

When Black Lives Matter flooded the country's streets and when immigrants were asking for a place in the country they grew up in, Trumpsters turned their backs on them. Now that Trump has, in effect, betrayed the middle American voter that supported him now they want the rest of America's sympathy.

Time to take your medicine Trump supporter. It is bitter and hard to take but necessary. When the country warned you, you would not listen, when the country begged you, you would not listen. The only thing that many of these die-hard supporters will understand are the upcoming economic hardships forthcoming from Trump's terrible economic policies. Maybe then supporters will finally get off the Trump train.

Minorities understand that this bitterness will make a person wiser when they come through the other side. We will be waiting for you.

E-mail Solomon Smith at [opinion@lavalleystar.com](mailto:opinion@lavalleystar.com)  
Send general comments to [valleystar@lavalleystar.com](mailto:valleystar@lavalleystar.com)

## One way or another: ONE QUESTION TWO OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

### We do not need more protests or walk outs

With an abundance of walkouts we need more effort to actually make a change.

SOLOMON SMITH  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With what seems like a protest every weekend in the United States very little policy is forthcoming.

Everyone likes to be a part of something greater than themselves and many young students can be fanatical in their devotion to the current fad. From animal rights and vegetarianism, to anti-consumerism and anti-wall street, many of these recent calls to action have ended up fashionable slogans on bracelets, ribbons and t-shirts.

There are several problems with the protests one being an issue of broad-stroke language with few clear answers. Phrases like "bringing awareness," sound great but rarely create policy. Changes in the social conscious are important, without them the country would not have spurred any action on the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's, but at the end of the day it was the lawyer and legislator, pushed by protesters, who created federal organizations and laws that changed the country.

Very little has changed on gun control or immigration policy in the direction protesters would like.

Strong opinions create polarization and a bipartisan media isolates individuals from one another. Protests get covered in the media in accordance to the way that the media chooses to portray

them. Hate liberal news, no problem there are some stations and "news" outlets that will serve you only what you want to hear.

It is noble what the young students from Florida, the young immigrants, and the Black Lives Matters members are trying to do, but often in the effort to be heard there is very little said. Policy begins as an idea but must be examined, codified and voted on, a point where many of the hipster followers go home.

We do not need more marches in the streets, we need sit-ins in town halls, at the offices of legislators, and the halls of legislation. We need legal leaders who can shape great ideas into workable policy, elected officials who support our ideas, and moral leaders with more than a general direction who can go and get voters.

The recent rallies have been bigger, better organized, and more fully covered than anything the Tea Party did in the last eight to ten years, but Tea Party members had a powerful distinction in their approach—the vote.

Last weekend the six minutes of silence was a stunning way to make a point and get the world's attention but now is the time for specifics or all of the work and marching will amount to a cool quote on a t-shirt in someone's closet.



VALLEY STAR | SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI  
SOLOMON SMITH- EIC of the Valley Star and lifelong carnivore.



VALLEY STAR | SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI  
MONSERRAT SOLIS- Sophomore at Valley College and Staff Writer.

### EDITORS NOTE

The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

### Current walkouts create change with loud voices

Marching for our life has made an impact.

MONSERRAT SOLIS  
STAFF WRITER

Recently walkouts and marches have been organized to bring awareness for gun control, but is it a platform for change or a hashtag?

Following recent shootings there has been a rise in walkouts calling for an end to gun violence, especially after the school shooting in Parkland, Florida that took 17 lives. The outcome of the marches have brought on both positive and negative feelings, whether it is simply a trend or an act of change.

"I march because this is the best way to get our voices heard," Emma Gonzalez, Parkland high school student and activist, said in a Teen Vogue video when asked why she marches.

Walkouts and marches are important because it opens a conversation for people to start discussing the importance behind the march itself. Innocent people have been taken from this life too early in this world where 20 children ranging from 6 to 7 years old were murdered under the fire of a gun at Sandy Hook Elementary.

Sadly, tragedy gives people the courage to act, but that's better than idly standing by.

People may argue that these marches are used for likes on Facebook but in reality, who cares if a model wanted a new Instagram picture? The message is still being spread on a large platform. If a person is bringing attention to the cause, I don't see a problem in that.

People who are skeptical in the influence of walkouts can look back to 1968 when Chicano students, who wanted better education environments, led walkouts with over 20,000 students participating from five East LA schools. After two years their needs were met and their walkout paved the way for the ones to come. For years people have wanted an end to gun violence, but it's certain the time has come to have positive outcomes from these walkouts for gun control.

It is not a question if the walkouts are worth it or not because the change has been evident throughout the last couple of weeks. Supporters like giant retail, Walmart have raised the purchasing age of firearms to 21 from their previous age of 18. This is a step towards gun control marchers want to see. The important question is not if the marches are worth it, it's when the government will listen and do something about it.

### VALLEY VIEW

HOW DO MARCHES AND PROTESTS AFFECT CHANGES IN LAW?



"Marches and protests can affect laws, bringing people together and forcing politicians to look at the situation."  
- ALEXIS HOLGUIN



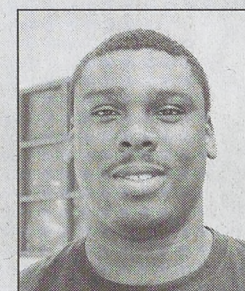
"I don't think it changes the law but it brings awareness, especially with social media."  
- JENNIFER CAPOZ



"Marches get the government's attention, this is a serious issue and hopefully something will be changed."  
- ULISES GARCIA



"It's 50/50, voices are being heard but I feel recently nothing has changed. Laws haven't been changing even with people speaking out."  
- MADISYN ZUNDEL



"The marches show the issues affecting our lives, things need to change but no change is happening."  
- SHAQUAN NESBIT

### GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to:  
[editor@lavalleystar.com](mailto:editor@lavalleystar.com) or submitted online at [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com). Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.



# Math Instructor helps put the pieces together

If life is a math equation, Barakat has converted the negatives into positives.

JESSICA AVA LANGE  
STAFF WRITER

Fathers often challenge their sons by teaching them how to hit a curveball, bait a hook, or fix a carburetor, but in Professor Mostapha Barakat's case, his father challenged him with puzzles.

"My dad presented all kinds of riddles that involve numbers, arithmetic operations, and logic," said Barakat. "He made me love numbers at a very young age. It was always a challenge for me. I always had to solve it and get it right."

Barakat earned his bachelor's in engineering from Cal Poly and a master's in applied mathematics from Cal State L.A. Since 2010, he has taught calculus, algebra, and every other math class offered at Valley College. His love for

math began at 4 in Lebanon. He speaks three languages: Arabic, English and French, but he predominantly speaks English now. Barakat dresses in athletic clothes, which is fitting because he moves with quick, active steps.

Although Barakat's love for numbers brings great memories to him in Lebanon, there are some memories that leave scars. His family fled their home several times before leaving the city. In 1985, there was a warning that a big battle was coming and his grandmother was killed.

"My dad tried so hard to get her to come and stay with us but she refused," Barakat said. "She hated sleeping anywhere other than her house."

Even though leaving his family behind was difficult, Barakat moved to the United States in 1992.

"It was exciting, a new beginning, dreams, and independence," he said. "Yet, it was sad to leave my family, my dad, mom, two sisters, and brother behind."

Students may not know this at first, but Barakat's adopted name is Steve. In fact, he often refers to himself in the third person, and during lectures he often says: "Steve, this is an ugly math problem."

Barakat's love for math was passed down from his dad and is now being passed along to his daughter.

"I'm using the same math tricks that my dad used with numbers on my 4-year-old daughter," Barakat said. "And, I can see that my daughter enjoys working with numbers."



VALLEY STAR | SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI  
BARAKAT- Professor's love for math shows in his years of teaching.

# Moulton brings the heat for Lady Monarchs softball

After a three year hiatus from the sport Moulton looks as if she hasn't lost a step as she leads the Lady Monarch's pitching staff.

VICENTE VITELA  
STAFF WRITER

With over 101 innings logged this year, Lady Monarch's starting pitcher Hanna Moulton continues to have an impressive softball season with 13 wins and 4.13 ERA.

As a Superior, Colorado native, Moulton started playing softball at 6. Moulton's biggest influence is her parents who supported her by driving her to practice, paying for her private lessons and encouraging her to never give up.

"They have coached me and paid for my coaching lessons to make me a better player and have done so much to support me," Moulton said.

At 10, Moulton decided to play competitively when she joined the Colorado Commotion

Softball Organization. Moulton received some of the best coaching advice she has gotten so far. In fact, she learned that softball is not only physical, but mental as well.

"My approach when facing a batter is that I think of it as a fresh start and my main goal is to get ahead in the count, giving me the opportunity to play with more pitches," said Moulton on her approach on the mound.

Moulton graduated from Burbank High School and decided not to play softball her first two years, until her best friend and teammate Sabrina Steward convinced her to dust off her glove, cleats and hop back on the field.

"After three years of not touching a softball, I'm pitching better than I have my whole career," said Moulton on return-

ing to the sport she loves.

The nursing major who has aspirations of becoming a nurse practitioner, hopes to transfer to Long Beach State and join their nursing program. Wherever Moulton ends up, she plans to still play softball. While giving private pitching lessons on the side, she still finds time to coach the 12u Cadets softball organization in Burbank. Moulton plans to stay involved with softball until her nursing takes off and fans can expect to see Moulton giving back to this sport for a while.

"My only goal as a player is to continue to move up with my softball career. Ideally an upper division school," said Moulton when talking about goals in the sport.



VALLEY STAR | SEBASTIAN MINO-BUCHELI  
ATHELETE- Moulton is back on the field and pitching better than ever.

# Jacobs starts cancer support group on campus

Valley College staff member hopes to make a difference in her community by helping those who have been affected by cancer.



VALLEY STAR | ALISON MCKINLEY  
SUPPORT GROUP- Meetings are every second Saturday of the month.

KARINA GUTIERREZ  
STAFF WRITER

Diagnosed with second stage breast cancer around five years ago, Sharen Jacobs is using her experience dealing with the disease in the hope that she can help others.

Jacobs, whose worked at the Valley College Resource Center for the past seven years and also given her time to film for the women's basketball team, decided to start a cancer support group after her battle with cancer.

"It was a wonderful experience meeting women of all kind, who all knew what cancer was like. They all knew what you were going through and it was a lovely experience," said Jacobs.

When diagnosed with breast cancer, Jacobs attended weSPARK, a free cancer support center that offers workshops to all those who have been affected by this disease.

During her nine-month treatment at the center, she spent her free time learning

how to make jewelry with beads. It was there where the 57-year-old cancer survivor realized she's not alone.

However, due to her treatment coming to an end and with the center being overly crowded, she had no choice but to stop attending to make room for the new people starting treatment.

Inspired by weSPARK and seeing the change it has brought upon her life, Jacobs wanted to make a difference in other people's life. She decided last year in the fall to establish a cancer support group at Valley.

"I want to have a place for people to come and have fun. That's why I'm not charging anything," she said. "This is a place where people can come who are well out of it who don't have a place to go, or maybe will like the commodity, because once you've been through it and if you meet somebody whose had it too, it's like you're in a sisterhood or brotherhood."

Despite lacking funds and equipped only with beads and her knowledge of making jewelry, she was determined to form a support group.

"I don't need a lot of money to make a difference and that's what hit me last fall. I can do this."

Being cancer free for almost four years, Jacobs' goal is to create an atmosphere where people feel welcomed and inspired. She's organized this support group not for only survivors, but for everyone affected by this disease.

"I want them to know they're not alone, that we are brought together by tragedy," said Jacobs.

The cancer support group is at the Family Resource Center and takes place every second Saturday of the month between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. It is open to anyone in the community.

## The Valley Star

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